



SELF-GUIDED TOURS:

Guide for Families

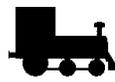


First Nations family, Edmonton, 1929
Image Credit: Glenbow Archives.

Fort Edmonton Park is located in Treaty 6 territory, as well as the traditional lands of the Métis people.

How to use this guide: This guide offers some tidbits of information about the history and experience of Edmonton's families. It also offers several suggestions of children-oriented activities you can try, as well as information about washroom locations and other facilities that may be useful on your visit.

© 2012 by Tom Long, Lori Hill, Kate Lemay,
with assistance from Heather Kerr.



Train: Take a ride on our train, included in your admission. It runs on a loop from the Train Station Entrance to the Fur Trade Fort. Our train can accommodate some strollers that are lightweight and foldable. Wagons cannot be accommodated, but you can leave them behind and do a full loop on the train.

1846 Fort and Cree Camp - A Fort Built for Furs

One hundred and fifty years ago, Edmonton was a trading post run by the Hudson's Bay Company. Company men married local First Nations or Métis women for their knowledge, for political alliances, and to start families.

Fur Trade Families: Many of the Company workers were Scottish, French-Canadian or Métis. Their Métis (mixed-descent) wives made pemmican (dried meat), clothes, and helped with other duties. Ask your kids what chores they would have liked to help with.

Fur Trade School: There was no formal school at the trading post. Children would learn from their parents, their elders, or occasionally a Missionary (after 1838). If a family was serious about their son's formal education, they might send him away to learn at Red River (now Winnipeg). Ask your children what kinds of things they think they would learn at the trading post. Ask if they'd like to live away at school.

ASK AN INTERPRETER what children during this period did for fun or why horses are so important for the post.

BE SURE TO VISIT Men's Quarters (#13) and the Cree Encampment (#18).

TRY TO FIND: Be the first in your family to find out what Mr Rowand's guest Paul Kane did for a living. Explore Mr. Rowand's House (#5) to see!



WASHROOMS: Columbia House (#6) by the Watchtower (changing facilities).

1885 Street-

A Blind Faith in the Future

By 1885, the West was governed by Canada and new settler families of Ontarians and others mixed with the Métis inhabitants, turning Edmonton from a work camp into a true settlement.

Settlement Families: Children of Euro-Canadian and Métis families were expected to help out around the farm. Ask your kids if they think parents wanted big families or little ones.

Settlement Schools: People from Edmonton and St. Albert demanded schools be provided for their children, both in English and French. In either language, children knew the rules: speak when spoken to and do what the teacher said. If not, a switch or strap was only one of the many punishments in store! Would that make you want to pay more attention? Take your children to see a school from this period at Bellerose School (#23).

GAMES & TOYS: Head upstairs in Kenneth McDonald House (#44) for a little fun!

VISIT THE ANIMALS: The Ottewell Farm (#22) has chickens, turkeys, pigs, goats and sheep. The pigs might let you pet them. Watch your fingers and be sure to wash your hands after!



Penny Farthing

ASK AN INTERPRETER what kinds of games the children of Edmonton played one hundred and twenty years ago and see if there are any you can try!

BE SURE TO VISIT Jasper House Hotel Bakery (#38) for a treat!

TRY TO FIND: Be the first in your family to find out what a "millinery" sells. Look in Mrs. Kernohan's (# 26) to find out!



WASHROOMS: Jasper House Hotel (#39) (changing facilities).



This is a living history museum. There are many artifacts that children can touch or smell, and sometimes there is food to taste so please ask our staff to assist you for a hands-on experience. We ask that you treat our artifacts with respect and always ask if you can touch something before doing so. Many of our buildings have roped off rooms designed to showcase delicate artifacts without having them handled.



Food Services: Johnson's Café in [Hotel Selkirk](#) (#68) is a sit-down restaurant that accepts debit, credit and cash. Try [Masonic Hall](#) (#55) for fast food style meals, the bakery in [Jasper House Hotel](#) (#38) for soup and a variety of baked goods, and [Bill's Confectionary](#) (#72) for ice cream and pop. All locations sell coffee.

*Thank you for visiting
Fort Edmonton Park!*

*Did you find this helpful?
Please give us feedback by
filling out a comment card!*

1905 Street- Thrill Ride

After the arrival of the railway, Edmonton boomed into a modern metropolis in a very short time. The first car appeared in Edmonton, people were able to ride in streetcars, and homes had hot and cold running water. So many people coming to Edmonton made it a crowded place!



Rutherford Family, 1898

Boomtown Families: With more families moving to the cities there was less and less work for children to do around the house. Girls were expected to help with things like mending and looking after the younger children. Ask your kids what they think the boys would've done?

Boomtown School: If you were a student, you would learn the three Rs (reading, writing, and arithmetic) but there were other subjects as well: physical education, nature study, manual training for boys, domestic study for girls, health and music. Do these subjects sound familiar to you? Come see our school in [St. Anthony's Chapel and School](#) (#58).

VISIT THE ANIMALS: The [Henderson Farm](#) (#51) has a barn and a corral with horses. If you want to pet them, keep your thumb tucked in, let them sniff you and pet them gently.

ASK AN INTERPRETER what kinds of things city kids did for fun in this time period? Are there any they can try?

BE SURE TO VISIT the [Penny Arcade](#) (#56) and the [Fire Hall](#) (#63) where you can see old fire engines.

TRY TO FIND: What team did teen-aged Cecil cheer for? Find out in [Rutherford House](#) (#54).



WASHROOMS: in the back of [Masonic Hall](#) (#56) or in the Picnic Shelter beside the [Gyro Park Playground](#) (#66) (changing facilities in both).

1920 Street- Tough Times, Modern Times

At the close of the First World War, Edmontonians had lived through many hardships including war, disease, and flood. To most people, the Twenties felt like a new beginning, but there were still challenges.

Post-War families: At first, jobs were not always easy to find. White single women could work in a few jobs (like telephone operator), whereas married women generally did not. Families lived in apartment buildings downtown, or in suburbs like Highlands or Bonnie Doon. Some still lived on farms outside of town. How far do you live from the centre of the city?

The Edmonton Exhibition & Midway, now known as K-Days, was a favourite amongst the locals and always included a Midway. On the Midway you would find games, rides, concession and sideshows, along with the carnies that ran them. In our reconstructed Midway, the Carousel horses have all been hand carved. Ask your children which one is their favourite and look "up" for its name.



Pitcher, Parkland, AB.
Glenbow Archives.

GAMES & TOYS: Try exploring upstairs in [Mellon Farm](#) (#81).

ASK AN INTERPRETER about sports and dancing in the 1920s. Learn to dance!

PLAYGROUND fun can be had at [Gyro Park](#) (#66).

BE SURE TO VISIT Tom Thumb [Miniature Golf Course](#) (#72), and the [Capitol Theatre](#) (#70), where you can catch a short "4D" film. Please be aware that there are loud noises in the video that might frighten very young children.

TRY TO FIND: The farm family at [Mellon](#) (#81) had a pet. Can you find a clue as to what type of pet this was? Why would you want one on a farm?



WASHROOMS: In the back of [Bill's Confectionary](#) (#73) and the [Exhibits Building](#) (#84) (changing facilities in both).